



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus receives a crest at a reception accorded to him by Chittagong University Ex-Economics Students' Association (CUEESA) at BDR Darbar Hall in the city yesterday.

Students dream of poverty-free Bangladesh in 2021

Extempore speech competition held

DU CORRESPONDENT

A number of young students yesterday said they want to celebrate the golden jubilee of the War of Liberation in 2021 in a country that would be free from poverty, corruption, communalism and militancy for which three million people embraced martyrdom.

They were taking part in an extempore speech competition for school students titled 'What kind of Bangladesh we want to see in 2021' organised by Pratyasha 2021 Forum in cooperation with Hunger Free World at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University.

"We will not stop after putting poverty into museum or inventing hybrid seeds, rather we want to be technologically developed like present Germany," said Fatiha Noor of Viharunisa Noon School and College who secured first position in the competition.

Samiul Awal Sakhkar of BAF Shaheen College, Kurmitola, who stood second, said, "We want to see such a Bangladesh at the time of celebrating the golden jubilee of the liberation war which was dreamt by our freedom fighters (FFs)."

"We want a secular Bangladesh,"



Participants of an extempore speech competition organised by Pratyasha 2021 Forum pose for photograph with the guests at RC Majumdar auditorium in the city yesterday.

he added.

SM Tadbir Bin Chisti of Sir John Wilson School got the third position.

Seven participants spoke about their dreams for future Bangladesh.

They said corruption, which has now become synonymous with

Bangladesh, will not be in the country in 2021.

They said no one will die from hunger and there will be no single child labourer in the country by that time.

Former diplomat Moislam Mannan presided over the programme which was attended by

Country Director of Hunger Free World Ataur Rahman Miton, Mizanur Rahman Shelly of Centre for Development Research, and Journalist Mozammel Hossain Monju.

A panel of judges selected the winners on the basis of their performance.

Islamabad wants to strengthen ties with Dhaka

Says Pak PM

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaoukat Aziz has said his country attaches importance to its relations with Bangladesh, saying that there is a great scope to increase cooperation in a host of areas.

Aziz made the remarks while talking to outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh FA Shamim Ahmed who paid a farewell call on him at the PM House on Thursday, a report from Islamabad said.

The Pakistan prime minister said Dhaka and Islamabad enjoy deep-rooted friendly relations based on shared faith, common history, culture and heritage which will continue to grow stronger.

He said both the countries also share the objectives of promoting regional cooperation to accelerate development and prosperity in the region.

PM Aziz said Saarc is an important organisation and can bring peace, prosperity and harmony in South Asia.

He said there is need to further engage Saarc to promote regional cooperation for the mutual benefit of its member countries.

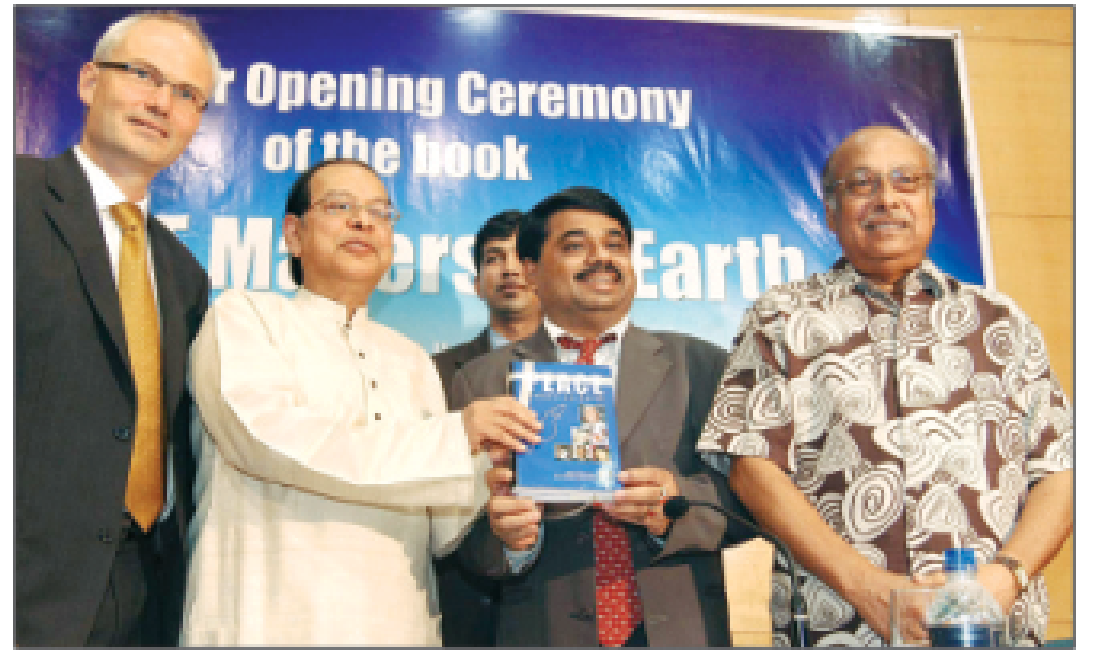
The prime minister appreciated the role played by the outgoing high commissioner for helping the earthquake-affected people. He said there is a need to promote people-to-people contacts for enhancing friendly relations between the two countries.

Shamim Ahmed said Bangladesh values its close and friendly relations with Pakistan and desires to further strengthen diplomatic, political, and economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

The BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm today, says a press release.

This week's panel members are Awami League's Advisory Council member ASHK Sadique, senior BNP leader Dr Osman Farruk, security analyst Major General (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam.



Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Haider Uzzaman show a copy of 'Peace Makers on Earth' authored by the latter at a launching ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. On their right is Danish Ambassador Einar Hebogaard Jensen while on their left is Editor of The Bangladesh Today MAsafud-dowlah.

Extend support to govt in war against corruption

Foreign affairs adviser says at book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has urged people to extend spontaneous support to the government in its war against corruption.

"Our law enforcers are trying to curb corruption. We should support them for building a peaceful and corruption-free country," he said while speaking at the book launching ceremony yesterday.

Written by Haider Uzzaman, the book titled 'Peace Makers on Earth' was launched at a function at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

Unveiling the cover of the book, the adviser said it will help know the background of peacemakers and how they served people.

He urged people to follow the lifestyle of peacemakers.

The speakers said the book will inspire readers who want to know about peace and peacemakers.

The readers will enjoy reading the background and success stories of 94 peacemakers including Dr Muhammad Yunus, Mother Teresa, Kofi Annan, Yasser Arafat, Jean Henry Dunant and Mohammed Anwar al-Sadat, they added.

Haider said he tried to focus on the peacemakers in his book so that people can gather knowledge about peace and contribute their might to this field.

Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Einar Hebogaard Jensen and Editor of The Bangladesh Today MAsafud-dowlah were present on the occasion.

'Donate blood to save millions of lives'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a function yesterday urged people to donate blood voluntarily to serve humanity.

They said blood donation could help save millions of people affected by various diseases.

The speakers said this while addressing a reception hosted in honour of 100-life-long blood donors of the Quantum Foundation at its meditation hall in the city.

Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbadh Sangstha (BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury attended the function as chief guest.

Prof Dr ABM Yunus of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Chief Coordinator of the Voluntary Blood Donation Programme of the Quantum Foundation Nahar Ali Bokhari also spoke.

Zaglul Ahmed urged people to donate blood voluntarily to save human life and reduce sufferings of millions of patients across the country.



Construction materials kept on the pavement near Bijoy Nagar Water Tank in the city hinder smooth movement of pedestrians. The picture was taken yesterday.

Three illegal lubricant factories unearthed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Joint forces yesterday unearthed three illegal lubricant factories and seized huge quantity of adulterated lubricants at Sitakunda upazila in the district.

Sources said, tipped off, members of the joint forces raided different areas of Faujdarhat and Bhatiari under the upazila at around 10:00am and unearthed three illegal factories housed in tin-sheds covering huge area.

The factories allegedly produced substandard lubricants out of the used and burnt lubricating oils collected from the scrap vessels of ship breaking yards.

During the six-hour drive, they found one factory at Diyabari near land station of Sangu Gas Field at Faujdarhat, another at the eastern side of Faujdarhat Railway Station and the other at Balubazar area of Bhatiari.

Around 2000 drums of adulterated lubricant and used lube oil were also seized from the factories.

Law enforcers also held a person identified as Siraj Maola, hailing from Sandwip, from a factory at Diyabari in this connection while the owners and workers managed to flee.

Siraj was later handed over to the Sitakunda Police Station.

Sources said three people, including two brothers Giasuddin and Nuruddin, and Yusuf owned the factory at Daiyabari.

Sub Inspector (SI) Abu Jarra of Sitakunda PS said the owners of the factories used to buy the used lube-oils from ships and used them to produce different adulterated lubricants mixing chemicals in the factories.

The refined adulterated lubricants were being sold to different petrol pumps at Chittagong and Dhaka, sources said.



Children engrossed in drawing pictures at an art competition at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised the competition on the occasion of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2007.

Bodies of two young girls recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered bodies of two young girls from separate places in the city in the last two days.

Kafrul police recovered body of an unidentified young girl, 25, from a flat on the ground floor of a three-story building after they broke into the house at 10:00pm on Thursday.

Police said that her face was acid burnt.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Neighbours said on April 28, a couple rented the house. But they went missing two days later.

They informed police after the place started stinking.

In another incident, Keraniganj police recovered a decomposed body of an unidentified girl that was floating in a sack in the river Buriganga near Muslimbagh at about 10:00am yesterday.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police said the victim was chopped with sharp weapons.